Indian Recognition to Israel

322. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government propose to give recognition to Israel in view of the sea-change in the global political scene?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): India accorded recognition to the State of Israel on September 18, 1950.

National Highways for Improving Trade and Economy of North Bihar

323. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been prepared or is being considered for a National Highway linking Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga-Forbesganj including bridge over Kosi river for improving trade facility and economy of North Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when this scheme will be approved by the Planning Commission and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) Proposal for declaration of Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga-Forbesganj-Purnea road having a length of 310 kms and passing through the State of Bihar as a National Highway is under consideration. It is not possible to indicate the time by which the road will be declared a National Highway as Eighth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised.

Sri Lankan Envoy's Talks with Indian Government

324. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the talks that the Sri Lankan envoy, Shri Vijay Ratne, recently had talks with him and other Government officials;

(b) whether Government were fully satisfied with the assurance given by him with regard to the safety of the Tamilians of Indian origin in Sri Lanka; and

(c) whether any offer was made from our side to send medical help and necessary items of daily use to Tamilian areas if so, what was the Sri Lankan reaction to the offer?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) While Mr. Wijeratne has not visited India recently the Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary, Mr. Tilakaratne visited Delhi between 30-6-90 and 2-7-90 to apprise Government of recent developments in Sri Lanka leading to the outbreak of hostilities between LTTE and Sri Lankan forces. He stressed that the present hostilities were not directed against the Tamil community but against "terrorism". Government too note of the assurances given by the Sri Lankan envoy. Government conveyed its concern about civilian casualties and the safety and security of Tamils in Sri Lanka. Government also conveyed that these developments were leading to an increasing influx of refugees into India and the possibility of third countries getting involved in Sri Lanka. Attention was also drawn to Prime Minister's statement that India will not allow its territory to be used as a base for hostile activity directed against Sri Lanka.

(c) No, Sir.

Petition for Protection of People of Indian Origin in Fiji

325. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:
DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a petition that has been filed by the "Friends of Indian Society International" and other organisations in

the USA with the Secretary General of the United Nations, Members of the General Assembly, Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council against the present dictatorial regime in Fiji for practising discrimination against the people of Indian origin;

(b) what relief has the aforesaid petitioner sought from the U.N.O.;

(c) whether the Indian Embassy in the U.S.A. is in touch with the aforesaid petitioner and organisations for providing them proper assistance and guidance in educating opinion among representatives of the USA and other countries; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to educate world opinion, and provide protection to people of Indian origin in Fiji?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes ,Sir.

(b) Outlining numerous considerations which reflect a gross and presistent violation of human rights by the Fiji authorities, the petition seeks that the present authorties in Fiji popularly elected, democratically based should cede control immediately to a Government that is representative of all interests in Fiji.

(c) and (d) The Government is taking various measures to activise world public opinion to condemn the gross and persistent violation of human rights by the present illegal regime in Fiji, including by raising the issue in high level bilateral discussions and at various multilateral fora.

Insecurity for Tamils in Sri Lanka

326. SHRI M. M. JACOB:
SHRI M. VINCENT:
SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that from mid-June the Sri Lankan Security forces have unleashed a reign of terror and annihilation on Sri Lankan Tamilians of all religions, regions and political affiliations;

(b) if so, what has been the reaction of the Government of India in this regard;

(c) whether Sri Lankan Government has approached foreign powers including Pakistan to help its genocided offensive;

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India; and

(e) whether there is any shift in the foreign policy with regard to the ethnic strife in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) The one year long cease-fire between the Sri Lanka Government and LTTE ended on 11th June, 1990 with the outbreak of hostilities in several areas in the North-East of Sri Lanka.

(b) Government have expressed deep concern at the escalation of violence, at reports of civilian casualties, at the reports of the use of chemical weapons, at reports of aerial attacks in heavily populated areas, and the suffering inflicted on civilians. Government have appealed for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a return to negotiations, involving all parties concerned. Government have also reiterated that they will not allow its territory to be used by any group of militants as a base for their activities.

(c) Government have received reports of Sri Lanka approaching foreign powers for military supplies.

(d) Government are monitoring the situation to ensure that this does not adversely affect India's security.

(e) Government continue to stand by the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement which provides the framework for a